

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-4, and 9-19 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method, which comprises:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section provided with symbol information symbol-converted for visual or auditory recognition of attributes of the digital content;
preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as an electronic watermark;
and
preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and distributing the composite data.
2. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said data section is made by compositing into one image data item more than one image-symbol data item symbol-converted for visually recognizing attributes corresponding respectively to a plurality of digital content items.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method, which comprises:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;
preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark;
preparing an annex data section in which use restriction information for restricting use of

the digital content is encrypted;

preparing composite data by compositing the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section, simultaneously compositing the annex data section; and

distributing the composite data.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data administration method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the use restriction information is embedding logic for embedding the consent information as the electronic watermark in the ~~header~~ summary data section.

5. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the use restriction information is based on a use term during which, or on a use count up to which, the digital content is usable.

6. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the use restriction information is encrypted with, as an encryption key, personal information on a user of the digital content.

7. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the encryption key when encrypting the use restriction information is a password preset by the user.

8. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the encryption key when encrypting the use restriction information is identifying information specific to a recording medium in which the composite data is recorded.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data administration method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the encryption key when encrypting the use restriction information is biometric information on the user.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

separating an annex data section from composite data distributed as a composite of a real data section in which digital content to be distributed is encrypted,

in a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of

the digital content, a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark, and an annex data section in which use restriction information for restricting use of the digital content is encrypted;

decrypting the annex data section and extracting the use restriction information;

extracting the consent information embedded in the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section based on the use restriction information;

obtaining from the consent information a content key for decrypting the digital content;

and

using the content key, decrypting the real data section into its original digital content to allow use by users.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;

preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark;

embedding in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark a hash value generated from the real data section using a hash function;
and thereafter

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and distributing the composite data.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;
preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily

unrecognizable electronic watermark; and

decrypting the real data section into digital content for sending out, by line-connecting to a predetermined contact destination, content information from the digital content that is decrypted, and therein

embedding in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark the content information from the digital content that is decrypted and information on the predetermined contact destination; and thereafter

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and distributing the composite data.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;

preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark;

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and therein retaining within the composite data record-location information from a server in which the digital content is registered; and distributing the composite data.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data administration method as set forth in claim 13, characterized in that the record-location information from the server in which the digital content is registered is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;
preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the

digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark; and

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and therein retaining within the composite data ~~vital~~ biometric template information generated based on ~~vital~~ biometric information on a user of the digital content; and

distributing the composite data.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data administration method as set forth in claim 15, characterized in that the ~~vital~~ biometric template information is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;

preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content, and identifying information specific to a recording medium for recording the digital content, are embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark; and

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and distributing the composite data.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method characterized by:
preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;

preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content, and a control code allowing a given operation on an information device for reproducing the digital content, are embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark; and

preparing composite data in which the real data section and the consent-information-

added ~~header~~ summary data section are composited, and distributing the composite data.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data administration method, which comprises:
- preparing a real data section by encrypting digital content to be distributed;
 - preparing a ~~header~~ summary data section enabling visual or auditory recognition of substance of the digital content;
 - preparing a consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section in which consent information containing information on a content key used as an encryption key in encrypting the digital content is embedded in the ~~header~~ summary data section as a visually or auditorily unrecognizable electronic watermark; and
 - preparing composite data by compositing the real data section and the consent-information-added ~~header~~ summary data section, and distributing the composite data; characterized in that
 - privileges information for the digital content including copyright information is embedded within the digital content as an electronic watermark.

20. (ORIGINAL) The data administration method as set forth in claim 19, characterized in that morphology and code level of the electronic watermark embedded in the digital content are determined based on a data quality level and a security level required by the digital content.

21. (CANCELLED)